

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KAMPAL 02238 01 OF 02 101559Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 RSR-01 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCA-01 SCS-03 OPR-02 SY-10

M-03 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PC-15 INRE-00 /138 W

----- 042338

O R 101400Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2833

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KAMPALA 2238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UG

SUBJECT: USG-GOU RELATIONS; MEETING WITH GENERAL AMIN

REF: KAMPALA 2236

1. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF JULY 10 MEETING WITH GENERAL AMIN.

2. AFTER FORTY-MINUTE WAIT I WAS USHERED INTO HIS OFFICE IN PARLIAMENT BUILDING. MEETING LASTED 20 MINUTES. FROM OUTSET IT WAS CLEAR HE INTENDED THIS TO BE A ONE-WAY LECTURE, WITH HIM DOING ALL THE TALKING, PRIMARILY FOR MEDIA CONSUMPTION. HE POSED US ON SOFA, SCENE WAS FILMED FOR TV, ALSO BY STILL CAMERA FOR PUBLICATION IN VOICE, THREE NOTETAKERS--PRESIDENTIAL, FOREIGN MINISTRY (OSEKU) AND JOURNALISTIC--WERE KEPT BUSY TAKING IT ALL DOWN. AMIN LOOKED TIRED AND HIS STYLE WAS THE USUAL RAMBLING, HALF-COHERENT SOLILOQUY. I LOOKED AS GRIM AS I COULD MANAGE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO WILL BE WATCHING THE TV NEWS TONIGHT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KAMPAL 02238 01 OF 02 101559Z

I WAS ABLE TO MAKE THREE POINTS TO THE GENERAL, TWO BY INTER-

RUPTING HIM AND A THIRD AT THE END, BUT THAT CONSTITUTED THE LIMIT OF MY ABILITY TO RESIST HIS MONOLOGUE.

3. FIRST OF ALL, GENERAL BEGAN, HE WISHED TO EXPLAIN THE MATTER OF THE PEACE CORPS GROUP WHICH HAD BEEN HELD AT ENTEBBE. HE HAD HAD TO ORDER THIS, HE SAID, BECAUSE GROUP WAS HEADED FOR BURUNDI AND HE HAD TO ASSURE HIMSELF THAT THIS WOULD NOT WORSEN ALREADY TROUBLED SITUATION THERE AND IN AREA IN GENERAL. HE HAD PLACED MATTER INTO HANDS OF HIS SECURITY COUNCIL, AND IN CHARGE OF COLONEL MOSES, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO RELEASE THE GGOUPE YESTERDAY TO GO ON TO ZAIRE AFTER RECEIVING FROM HIS "BROTHER" GENERAL MOBUTU ASSURANCES THAT THESE WERE ACTUALLY PCV'S INVITED TO ZAIRE UNDER AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN USG AND GOZ. YESTERDAY HE HAD MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF ZAIRE, WHO HAD TALKED WITH A NUMBER OF THE PCV'S AT ENTEBBE PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE, AND THEY HAD ALL TOLD THE MINISTER THAT THEY HAD BEEN TREATED WELL AND HAD NO COMPLAINTS. THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN FOOD AND DRINK AND HAD BEEN PUT UP AT A HOTEL. IN THE FUTURE THE GENERAL CONTINUED, I SHOULD ADVISE HIM OF ANY LARGE GROUP OF AMERICANS COMING TO UGANDA SO THAT EVERYTHING COULD BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE. (COMMENT: GENERAL OFFERED NO APOLOGIES, AND ATTITUDE HE DISPLAYED WAS THAT THIS WAS A MINOR INCIDENT WHICH WAS NOT HIS FAULT, BECAUSE HE HAD HAD TO ASSURE HIMSELF OF THE BONA FIDES OF THESE PEOPLE. END COMMENT.)

4. I INTERRUPTED AT THIS POINT TO STATE THAT I AGREED IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO CLEAR THE ARRIVAL OR TRANSIT OF LARGE GROUPS WITH THE GOU, BUT PRESUMABLY EAA HAD DONE THIS. I SAID IF EVER IN THE FUTURE I HEARD OF SUCH A GROUP COMING HERE I WOULD CERTAINLY ADVISE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. BUT IN THIS CASE I HAD HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE, AND I DOUBTED THAT ANYONE IN MY GOVERNMENT KNEW THAT THIS GROUP WAS COMING THROUGH UGANDA. I SUGGESTED THAT PC HQ IN WASHINGTON HAD ARRANGED A LONDON-BUJUMBURA CHARTER WITH EAA, AND IT WAS THE LATTER THAT ORDERED THE TECHNICAL STOP AT ENTEBBE, FOR THE PURPOSE, I UNDERSTOOD, OF TAKING ON JET FUEL WHICH WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN BURUNDI. I SAID I MIGHT RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF THIS INCIDENT WITH HIM OR WITH MR. ETIANG AFTER I RECEIVED SOME INSTRUCTIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, MY GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED FOR A FULL REPORT FROM EAA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KAMPAL 02238 01 OF 02 101559Z

5. AMIN THEN SAID THAT HE "DID NOT WANT ANY PROPAGANDA FROM AMERICA" (HE MAY HAVE SAID "FROM AMERICANS," AS LATTER WORD WAS PUNCTUATED BY A BELCH). HE SAID HE WAS THE ONLY AFRICAN LEADER, EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR COLONEL QADHAFI, WHO CAN SPEAK THE TRUTH BECAUSE HE IS NOT CONTROLLED BY ANY OF THE SUPER-POWERS. "I AM NOT AGAINST YOUR COUNTRY. YOU HAVE STOPPED YOUR AID TO US. BUT WE WILL NOT BEG FOR AID FROM YOU." HE THEN SAID HE WOULD SOON "CONSIDER" UGANDA'S RELATIONS WITH AMERICA AND FOR THIS PURPOSE

HE WANTED TO HAVE FROM ME A LIST OF ALL AMERICANS LIVING IN UGANDA, WHERE THEY ARE WORKING AND SO FORTH.

6. I AGAIN INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT MR. ETIANG HAD ASKED ME FOR SUCH A LIST WHEN WE HAD CHATTED AT ENTEBBE ON SATURDAY MORNING, AND A NOTE WITH THE REQUESTED LIST HAD ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, PROBABLY WHILE WE WERE TALKING.

7. AMIN THEN WENT OFF ON A DIATRIBE ABOUT US POLICIES AND ACTIONS AROUND THE WORLD, MUCH OF WHICH WAS INCOHERENT. WE SHALL HAVE TO AWAIT THE PUBLISHED VERSION OF THIS MEETING TO LEARN WHAT HE "OFFICIALLY" SAID. HE SAID THE AMERICANS WERE KILLING PEOPLE AND DESTROYING PROPERTY IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, ARMING ISRAEL TO ATTACK THE EGYPTIANS. INSTEAD OF DOING SUCH THINGS WE SHOULD BE HELPING COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP. POINTING TO SOME NEWSPAPERS, HE SAID: "YOUR PRESIDENT, MR. NIXON--THEY ARE ALL SAYING HE IS GUILTY. HE IS BEING DESTROYED, AND THAT IS TOO BAD. I WISHED HIM A SPEEDY RECOVERY FROM THIS WATERGATE BUSINESS. THAT IS BECAUSE I LIKE SOME THINGS HE HAS BEEN DOING. I LIKE VERY MUCH HIS TRIP TO CHINA. I LIKE VERY MUCH HIS TRIP TO SOVIET UNION. WE IN UGANDA WANT PEACE. WE WANT ALL THOSE BOMBINGS STOPPED."

8. TURNING BACK TO SUBJECT OF AMERICANS, AMIN SAID SOME HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM AND THIS MUST STOP. HE SAID HE HAS INSTRUCTED HIS SECURITY SERVICES TO "ROOT OUT" ALL THESE SUBVERSIVES, ALL THESE PEOPLE SPREADING PROPAGANDA, THESE AGENTS. HE SAID SOME BLACK PEOPLE HAVE BEEN BOUGHT TO SERVE AS SUBVERSIVE AGENTS. IT WAS CLEAR HE HAD MISSIONARIES MAINLY IN MIND, FOR HE THEN SAID: "IN UGANDA WE RECOGNIZE ONLY THREE RELIGIONS

--

PROTESTANT, ROMAN CATHOLICS, MUSLIMS. WE MUST NOT HAVE ANY OTHER KINDS. THERE ARE THESE 22 OTHER RELIGIOUS SECTS THAT AMERICANS HAVE PLANTED HERE AND THEY MUST GO. THEY ARE NOT WANTED."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KAMPAL 02238 01 OF 02 101559Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KAMPAL 02238 02 OF 02 101601Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 RSR-01 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCA-01 SCS-03 OPR-02 SY-10

M-03 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PC-15 INRE-00 /138 W

----- 042359

O R 101400Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2834

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KAMPALA 2238

9. COMMENT: THIS LOOKS BAD FOR OUR REMAINING PROTESTANT AMERICAN MISSIONARIES OF WHATEVER SECT. WHEN HE SAYS "PROTESTANT" H AMIN IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN SPECIFICALLY THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF UGANDA. WHEN HE TELLS HIS SECURITY SERVICES TO "ROOT OUT" THESE SUBVERSIVES WE CAN COUNT ON THEM TO MANUFACTURE THE APPROPRIATE REPORTS. END COMMENT.

10. HIS LECTURE FINISHED, AMIN STARTED TO RISE TO SAY GOOD-BYE. I SAID I WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING. I SAID I KNEW HE LIKED PLAIN-SPEAKING AND FRANKNESS AND THERE WAS SOMETHING I WISHED TO SAY IN THAT SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS. I CONTINUED THAT I BELIEVED SOME OF THE PEOPLE REPORTING TO HIM ON SECURITY MATTERS WERE NOT DOING A VERY GOOD JOB, FOR I KNEW HE WAS RECEIVING REPORTS THAT WERE INACCURATE, MISLEADING, PERHAPS BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF SOMETHING OVERHEARD OR OBSERVED, OR IT MIGHT BE A MATTER OF SOME PEOPLE WANTING TO CREATE TROUBLE BETWEEN US-- NOT US PERSONALLY BUT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES--BY MAKING FALSE REPORTS. I STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT HE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KAMPAL 02238 02 OF 02 101601Z

"CHECK AND DOUBLE-CHECK" ANY SUCH REPORTS ALLEGING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BY AMERICANS IN UGANDA. SAID I AGREED WITH HIM THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE PEOPLE IN HIS COUNTRY WHO WERE SPREADING PROPAGANDA OR ENCOURAGING SUBVERSION, BUT I SAID THE AMERICANS IN UGANDA DO NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AND ANY REPORTS THAT THEY ARE DOING SO ARE MOST LIKELY FABRICATIONS.

11. I WENT ON TO CITE A REPORT (SEE KAMPALA 2195) I HAD HEARD

ABOUT RECENTLY (I USED NO NAMES AND DIDN'T SOURCE IT TO ETIANG)
WHICH ALLEGED THAT ONE OF OUR OFFICIAL AMERICANS WAS INVOLVED
WITH A MISSIONARY WHO WAS EXPELLED. I HAD CHECKED INTO THIS
AND LEARNED THAT OUR MAN DID NOT EVEN KNOW THE MISSIONARY, HAD
NEVER MET HIM, AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME. IT WAS THIS KIND
OF FALSE REPORT, I CONCLUDED, THAT HE SHOULD GUARD HIMSELF
AGAINST.

12. WE THEN SHOOK HANDS AND I LEFT.
KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELEVISION BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KAMPAL02238
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KEELEY
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KAMPALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730744/aaaabfvp.tel
Line Count: 233
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KAMPALA 2236
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG-GOU RELATIONS; MEETING WITH GENERAL AMIN
TAGS: PFOR, US, UG, (AMIN, IDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005